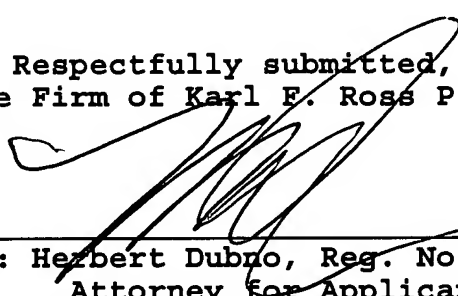


This preliminary amendment is submitted to provide the cross reference of the present US phase of PCT/EP2003/012727 to the international application according to Rule 78, and to eliminate the multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



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